



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Susan Cumbia Clare, M.Ed.
Executive Director

OFFICE OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES *Administering the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families*

TO: CANS Super Users
CANVaS Report Administrators
CPMT Chairpersons
CSA Coordinators

FROM: Scott Reiner
Assistant Director

DATE: October 29, 2014

SUBJECT: Updated CANS Assessment and Software (CANVaS 2.0)

The Office of Comprehensive Services is pleased to announce improvements to the Virginia Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment and upgrades to the online software CANVaS (Version 2.0). The CANS serves as the statutorily required assessment for all children and youth receiving CSA services. The revisions to the CANS grew from the desire to make the assessment more meaningful both in service planning and outcomes measurement to all local CANS users.

In the coming weeks, a series of "Fact Sheets" will be distributed to CANS Super Users, CANVaS Report Administrators, CPMT chairpersons and CSA coordinators to share with local staff on the progress of the implementation. A new user's guide and resource and training materials are being developed to assist in understanding the revisions. The target date for implementation is early in 2015, pending successful testing of the new software.

CANVaS 2.0 will provide a user-friendly interface, will be easier to navigate, and offers an improved method of local account creation (including for those raters who need access to multiple localities), enhanced security features, ability to transfer assessments for specific children, and new reports. We are especially pleased that case managers will be able to access individual child progress reports over time. Consistent with Dr. Lyons' Total Clinical Outcomes Approach (TCOM), these reports and additional ones may be aggregated at the local and state level to provide a management perspective on characteristics of children and families served, identify which children improve over time and better understand areas where improvement is not noted.

In addition to changes to the software, the revisions to the assessment improve the ability of the CANS to meet the needs of our child welfare partners. Based on the work of a group of staff from OCS, the Virginia Department of Social Services, and local Departments of Social Services, the updated CANS includes an enhanced focus on trauma, the child welfare outcomes of safety, permanency and well-being, and concurrent planning.

Please be on the look-out for the “Fact Sheets” which will provide important information on the “roll-out” and training opportunities for CANVaS 2.0. If you have questions about the revised CANS, please contact Carol Wilson at carol.wilson@csa.virginia.gov or (804) 662-9817 or Scott Reiner at scott.reiner@csa.virginia.gov or (804) 662-9082. Thank you.